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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Mauro Pagliato, Massimo Montanaro, and Paolo Rolandi

Title: PARALLEL SENSE AMPLIFIER WITH MIRRORING OF THE CURRENT TO BE MEASURED INTO EACH REFERENCE BRANCH

Serial Number: 10/762,195

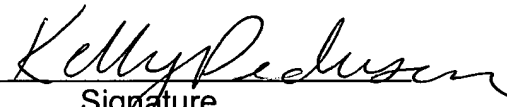
Filing Date: January 20, 2004

Examiner/Unit: Viet Q. Nguyen / 2817

Attorney Docket No.: 2110-103-3

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 12th day of September, 2005.


Signature

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.143

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

In response to the August 12, 2005 restriction requirement under 35 USC § 121, Applicants elect Group I (Claims 1-26) for prosecution with traverse.

According to MPEP § 803, if the Examiner can search and examine the application without serious burden, then he/she **MUST** examine the application on the merits even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions. As discussed below, because claims 1 – 30 recite related subject matter, the Examiner can perform a single search and examination that will cover all of the claims. Consequently, the Examiner can search and examine the application without serious burden, and, therefore, **MUST** examine all of the claims 1 – 30 together.

Group II claim 27 is a method version of Group I apparatus claim 11; consequently, the claims 27 and 11 include similar limitations. More specifically, the first paragraph of claim 11 recites “an input branch operable to . . . generate an input signal that is related to [an] input current;” comparatively, the first paragraph of claim 27 recites “generating an

input signal in response to an input current.” Furthermore, the second paragraph of claim 11 recites “a first output branch . . . operable to generate a first output signal that is related to a combination of a first reference current and a first mirror current that is related to the input current;” comparatively, the second paragraph of claim 27 recites “generating a first output signal in response to a combination of a first reference current and a first output current that is related to the input current.” In addition, the third paragraph of claim 11 recites “a comparator . . . operable to determine the amplitude of the input current from the input signal and the first output signal;” comparatively, the third paragraph of claim 27 recites “determining a value of the input current from the input signal and the first output signal.”

Because claims 11 and 27 include similar limitations, a search and examination of apparatus claim 11 will also apply to method claim 27.

Consequently, the additional burden for the Examiner to search and examine the four Group II claims 27-30 is minimal.

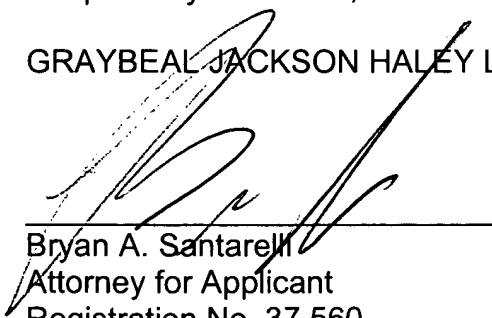
In the event additional fees are due as a result of this amendment, payment for those fees has been enclosed in the form of a check. Should further payment be required to cover such fees you are hereby authorized to charge such payment to Deposit Account No. 07-1897.

If the Examiner disagrees that the restriction is improper, he is respectfully requested to contact the Applicants’ attorney, Bryan Santarelli, at (425) 455-5575, to schedule a telephone interview.

DATED this 12th day of September, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

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